

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10830

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, NI, US
SUBJECT: LT GEN DANJUMA ON THE AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND

REF: LAGOS 8599

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: IN A MUCH PUBLICIZED ADDRESS ON AUGUST 24, NIGERIAN ARMY CHIEF DANJUMA OUTLINED HIS IDEAS ON AN AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND, POINTING OUT CONDITIONS WHICH HE BELIEVES MUST EXIST AND PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME BEFORE AN AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND CAN BE FORMED. DANJUMA REFERRED EXTENSIVELY TO THE UNITED STATES, URGING A PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF BLACK AMERICANS. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE END AFRICA WOULD BE FREE ONLY THROUGH THE BARREL OF A GUN. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSING A SEMINAR ON THE AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND ORGANIZED BY THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON AUGUST 24, CHIEF OF THE ARMY LT GENERAL F.Y. DANJUMA LISTED FIVE CONDITIONS WHICH HE CONSIDERS MUST EXIST BEFORE SUCH A MILITARY BODY CAN BE FORMED. DANJUMA NAMED THESE AS 1) A COMMON ENEMY, 2) REASONABLE AND CREDIBLE OBJECTIVES, 3) A RELATIVE "SUPERSTATE"
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WITH THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY MIGHT TO PURSUE THESE OBJECTIVES,
4) A STANDING FORCE UNDER CENTRAL COMMAND TO BE DEPLOYED NEAR THE THREATENED ZONE, AND 5) A CODIFICATION OF TREATY TERMS WHICH WOULD ALLOW COMMANDERS A FREE HAND TO OPERATE MILITARILY.

3. USING THESE CONDITIONS AS HIS BASIS, DANJUMA QUESTIONED WHETHER SUCH A MILITARY COMMAND IS POSSIBLE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

WHILE SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA CAN BE CONSIDERED THE COMMON ENEMY, AND THE FRONT LINE STATES AS THE AREA UNDER THREAT, SEVERAL PROBLEMS REMAIN. FOREMOST AMONG THESE IS THE MAKEUP OF THE FORCE, SINCE "HYPOCRITICAL AND OPPORTUNISTIC" AFRICAN ARABS AS WELL AS THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES, PROBABLY WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE. MOREOVER, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER EVEN NIGERIA WOULD HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL AND RESOURCES TO FULFILL A LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND WHETHER THE FRONT LINE STATES WOULD ALLOW A FOREIGN ARMY ON THEIR SOIL.

4. IN CONCLUSION, DANJUMA URGED THE EFFECTIVE USE OF PROPAGANDA TO WIN FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY AMONG BLACK AMERICANS, WHOSE GROWING INFLUENCE HE SAID IS "GOING TO WASTE." DANJUMA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BLACK AMERICANS WOULD BEGIN TO PLAY THE SAME SUPPORTING ROLE FOR BLACK AFRICA AS AMERICAN JEWS DO FOR ISRAEL. HE URGED THAT FUNDS FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN RELIEF FUND BE USED TO PROMOTE THIS GOAL. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED, "IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE BARREL OF THE GUN THAT OCCUPIED AFRICA SHALL BE FREE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: DANJUMA'S COMMENTS ON THE NEED TO CULTIVATE BLACK AMERICANS INDICATE THE FMG IS STILL PURSUING ITS POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A BLACK AMERICAN AFRICAN LOBBY ALONG THE LINES OF THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED ISRAELI AND GREEK LOBBIES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. THIS POLICY HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE PAST IN OBASANJO'S INSISTENCE ON CONFINING MOST OF HIS APPOINTMENTS AND APPEARANCES DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO BLACK AMERICAN GROUPS AND IN GARBA'S JUNE SPEECH IN CLEVELAND. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LEWIS

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